



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ALERT...PHOTO OPPORTUNITY...MEDIA ALERT...

**275 YEARS YOUNG: THE LIBRARY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA CELEBRATES
ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING AS NATION'S FIRST LENDING LIBRARY**

WHAT: The Library Company of Philadelphia is celebrating its 275th Anniversary. Come be a part of the celebration as we honor the Library Company as the nation's oldest continuously operating library. The Library Company is currently home to more than **500,000** volumes documenting American history and culture from the 17th through 19th centuries.

Highlights of the evening will include:

- Entertainment by Ricky Jay, sleight-of-hand artist and distinguished collector
- Music by The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia's string quartet

WHO: Bruce James, Public Printer of the United States, host

The Honorary Committee for the anniversary celebration includes notable representatives; authors; printers and publishers; scientists and inventors; statesmen and diplomats; philosophers and philanthropists; public servants; and quintessential Americans. Honorary Committee members scheduled to attend include:

- **Lorene Cary**, Author
- **Cheryl Hurley**, President, The Library of America
- **The Honorable Bruce R. James**, Public Printer of the United States
- **H.F. and Marguerite Lenfest**, The Lenfest Foundation
- **William Reese**, William Reese Company

WHEN: **Wednesday, November 8, 2006**
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM*

****Media are invited to attend the cocktail reception from 6:00-7:00 p.m., to request a press pass, please contact Edward Keels, 215.790.7813 or via email at edward@alta247.com.***

WHERE: Ballroom at the Ben
834 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia

WHY: Funds raised as part of the celebration will support the Library Company's technology endowment – providing access to the organization's rare and extensive collection through the use of technology, multimedia, and more.

DETAILS: The Library Company of Philadelphia, founded in 1731 by Benjamin Franklin, is an independent research library encompassing half a million rare books, prints, and photographs documenting every aspect of American history and culture from the 17th through the 19th centuries. It is an internationally renowned research center, serving a diverse constituency of readers, scholars as well as the general public. Centrally located just off the Avenue of the Arts in Philadelphia, the Library Company is free of charge and open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. In addition, through the continued support of its members, the Library Company is able to host presentations, seminars and special exhibitions throughout the year. . The Library Company can be found online at www.librarycompany.org.